

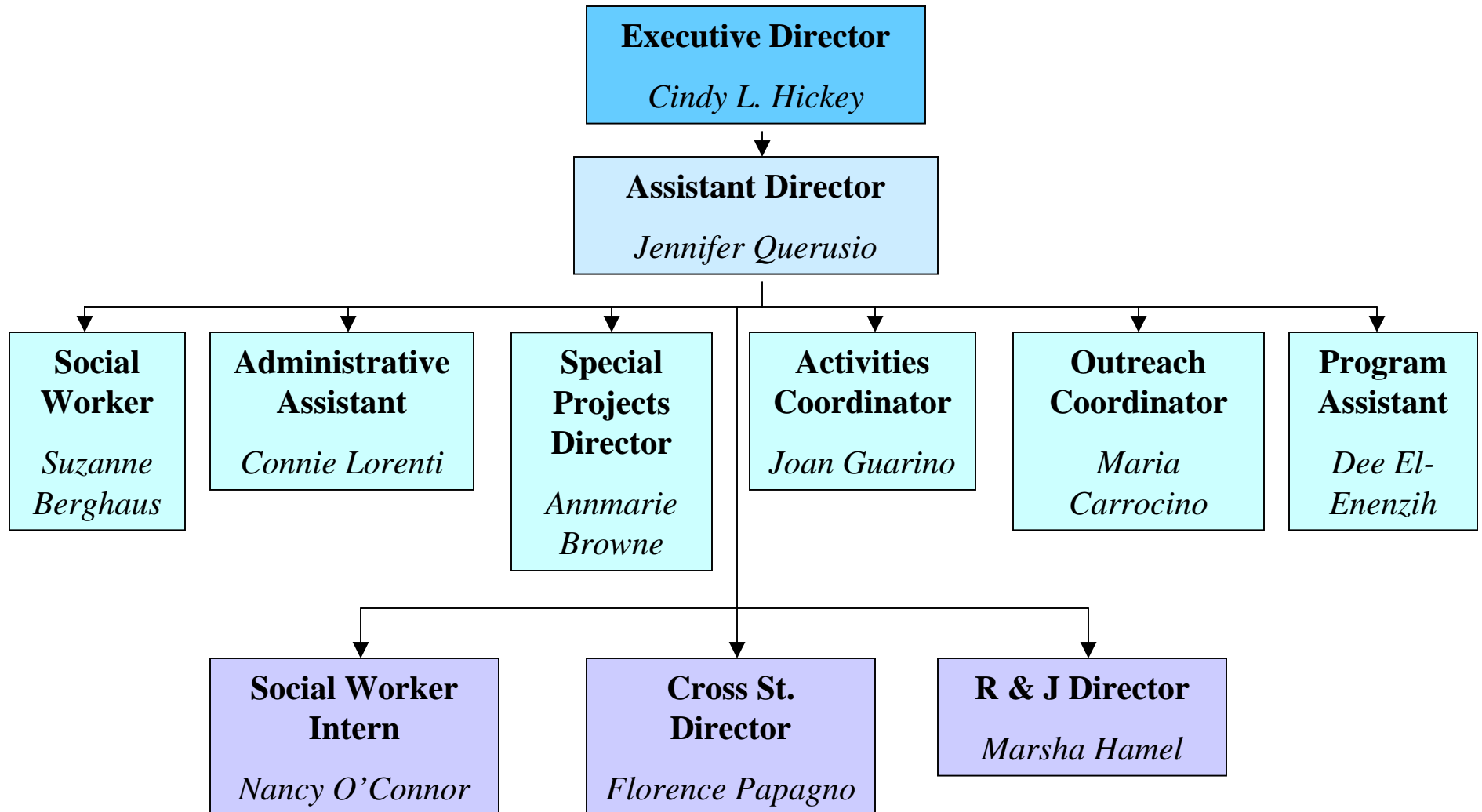
FY08 SOMERVILLE BUDGET HEARINGS

Council On Aging

Cindy L. Hickey, Executive Director



2. COA – Organizational Chart



3. COA – Activity Data FY06 vs. FY07

- The Council on Aging provides almost 1000 social activities (classes, exercise sessions, bingo, dances, dinners, trips, and birthday parties) for seniors each year. The number of activities is projected to grow again next year.
- The Council on Aging also provided 9,763 lunches to Somerville seniors in FY07, up from 9,450 in FY06. We project this will increase to 10,000 or more in FY08.
- We also assisted 212 seniors with tax forms and estate management in FY07, compared with 150 in FY06.
- The Council on Aging provided 24-hour open cooling centers to 15 Somerville seniors and community families in extreme heat situations – this number is high compared with FY06.

4. COA – Activity Data

Mayor Curtatone at →
the Annual Summer
Picnic, 2006

(approximately 1000
participants attended)



← Christmas Dance
at the Good Times
Emporium, 2006
(one of ten dances
held yearly)

5. COA – Performance Data (from 2006 resident survey)

“I had a very pleasant experience. They always give advices about transportation if the service is cancelled or delayed. Also they provided explanation and useful information on the new Medicare drug program, for senior citizens.”

“I've volunteered at the 60 Plus Health center, which is across the street from the Council on Aging and I've gone to a few of their events and they have been very good.”

“They were very nice and they helped me out, after I had my surgery last year.”

“I love being at the Council on Aging. I go there everyday to help them with paper.”

“Sometimes I call and ask for help to get food and they help me.”

“My experiences at the Council on Aging have been very, very good.”

“I disagree with some of the contentions held by the Council of the Aging. The Council of the Aging seems to hold the opinion that the quality of life for the elderly, in Somerville, is improving.”

6. COA – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

- Established Shape Up Somerville Seniors program and expanded our outdoor walking group that runs from April to October, weather permitting. By emphasizing the importance of exercise and healthy eating we help seniors to lead healthier lifestyles.
- Increased the SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Program, where a COA worker goes into the homes of seniors with a computer and helps them navigate the internet, filling out necessary forms and signing them up for benefits. This year we would like to add a portable printer to this process, which will allow us to print all necessary forms and receipts on-site, further streamlining this process. The staff has won the the President's Volunteer Gold Service Award for outstanding service and dedicated hours the last two years
- Created better activity logs to capture accurate statistics.

7. COA – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

- Improved our transportation services by increasing number of users and expanding locations beyond meals and medical appointments.
- The Council on Aging has increased our productivity by creating more programs and social events, providing Somerville seniors with more opportunities and activities at the centers than in recent years.
- Increased percentage of seniors involved in COA activities and programming through outreach, advertising, and spending more time in senior buildings and with the senior community.
- Re-established our Veteran's Breakfast and monthly meetings.
- Started an after school intergenerational program at two centers.

8. COA – FY08 Goals

1. In FY08, the COA will continue to increase the number of health and wellness programs, including continuing and expanding the Shape up Somerville Seniors campaign, through available grants. We will begin preparing for the baby boomers by planning activities, programs, and trips that will be of interest to this new population of seniors.
2. Expand the seminar, night, and weekend programs.
3. Increase the number of suppers provided on a weekly basis.
4. Provide different transportation options through new grants funds.
5. Continue our extensive citizen outreach, for advocacy work and to educate the elder population about the services available.
6. Hire a mental health counselor through grant funding.

9. ACE Service Project

ACE Service Project: Accurate, Courteous, Easy Service from your City government.

“The mission of this project is to respond accurately and efficiently to constituent needs, while treating each customer with courtesy and respect, and constantly improving the ease of doing business with city government.” ~Mayor Joseph Curtatone, 2007 Midterm Address

The Council on Aging strives to meet the ACE goals by:

- Holding a staff retreat to focus on ACE and the impact it has on the COA's interactions with Seniors. (FY07)
- Participating in the ACE front-line staff meetings to improve understanding of ACE issues. (FY07)
- Increasing programming of all types to expand outreach to the senior community. (FY08)
- Increasing advocacy work to ensure that the seniors in Somerville are getting the benefits they are entitled to. (FY08)